

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that some claims are objected to and rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 1, 9, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over the patent to Fuwa.

At the same time the Examiner indicated that claims 2-8 and 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for formal objections and rejections, applicants have amended the claims to delete the expression "means of" from some claims. At the same time, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the term "a mean pressure" in claim 8 has been retained, because in this case the term "mean" means --average --.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of the claims, applicant canceled claims 1, and 9-13 without prejudice.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of some claims has been gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 have been amended by introducing into them the features of claim 1, thus making them independent, so that claims 1-5 and 8 should now be in allowable condition.

Claims 6, 7, 14 and 15 depend on claim 5, they share its presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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